

Women in the Economy Commission Meeting

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

House Room 25

Commission: Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Rep. Becky Edwards, Jennifer Robinson, Ann Marie Wallace, Kathy Bounous and Karen Leonardi.

Excused: Senator Deidre Henderson, Anne Burkholder, Sen. Luz Escamilla, Judy Barnett, Melissa Freigang and Anne Burkholder

Staff Support: Shelle Allinson

Attendees: Erin Jemison and Emily Walsh

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION
Welcome	Welcome by Rep. Edwards	Motion to approve minutes from the last meeting. Noticed we do not have a quorum. Motion tabled.
Education Roundtable Planning	<p>The Commission would like to pull in experts from fields of higher education to have a discussion of what the data we put together says, how it impacts their institution and brainstorming what their plan is to advance the causes in the data and how we can support it.</p> <p>Representative Chavez-Houck tried to recall a task force convened by the Governor for concerns about graduation dates for women in post secondary education. Couldn't recall the name. The were convened for two years until the funding was stopped. They had a one day conference at the Little America. If we can figure out what they came up with we could utilize their ideas and work it into ours. Or what to avoid... RCH recommends we find that info out and include it in our discussion.</p> <p>Commissioner Bounous found an old news article on Google about the Utah Womens College Task Force to raise educational aspiration of Utah's women in education. She will send the link out to everyone.</p> <p>Representative Edwards asked what can we best bring to the table as a Commission to make it a</p>	<p>Rep. Chavez-Houck would like to find the information on the Governor's task force and include their ideas of what worked for them and what didn't.</p> <p>Representative Edwards is writing to the staffer to get a background on why funding was stopped.</p>

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	<p>robust discussion? Commissioner Robinson would like to see discussions on challenges with funding higher education and the increasing expense of tuition, the challenges for nontraditional students in getting education, child care issues, lack of online classes, students struggling to finish in four years. Most students now have to work while going to school. Transition from 2 year to 4 year, ease of, would be a great topic.</p> <p>Representative Chavez-Houck would like to discuss how hard it is to not have class credits transfer from one institution to the next. Honest discussion about it and articulation and course work. Seems that nontraditional students are now the norm. Full time students seem to be the anomaly. What does this mean for our institutions? Institutions incentivize finishing within 4 years. 15 hours or more per semester will cost you less. She feels we may have done a major disservice by doing that and it “punishes” students who need to take less credit hours per semester and finish in 6 years. We need to have a system wide mechanism for exit interviews. How many slip through the cracks? Is policy affecting it in the negative way instead of positive?</p> <p>Representative Edwards mentioned a panel that her and Representative Chavez-Houck were on last Monday with representatives from universities all around the country. They discussed about how they could engage with their individual legislators around the country. Are we working towards serving the needs of our community?</p> <p>Representative Chavez-Houck would like to see how each institution is individually doing things with money they were given. UVU wanted to tackle marginalized communities and get them to completion. How do we envision doing this? She would like to see our roundtable be a full day. Present research first. What have our institutions been doing over the last few years to overcome this challenge? Are we moving systemically as a state in the right direction? What do we need to tweak or what policy needs to be in place? Bring up the fact that if a woman is educated then their children are more likely to be. This topic was recognized by the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Jonathan Ball. Have him present? And have a presentation on student loans.</p>	

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	<p>Representative Edwards said this is a brainstorming session so everyone is invited to participate. Invited all attendees to come up to the discussion.</p> <p>Erin Jemison, Director of Public Policy for the YWCA, suggested we contact Nina Barnes who is on the Board of Regents and is very passionate about this subject. She might be a great first contact. Donna Law from SUU would also be a great contact. We should have Susan Madsen talk about our women in education initiative. The YWCA is putting on a Utah Womens Policy Conference in a couple weeks. One issue they are discussing is access to child care to help women finish their education.</p> <p>Emily Walsh with The League of Women Voters believes childcare is a big issue. Affordable housing would also impact the ability to go to school and pay for it, as well as transportation. What are other institutions doing for transportation? Do we need to pull in the high schools as well? The discussion to graduate from a higher education institution should start with our high schools.</p> <p>Representative Chavez-Houck would like to know how best to approach an invitation list and still have it be manageable to leave with policy recommendations and not have anyone left out?</p> <p>Erin Jemison suggested a presentation of research in the morning with a panel that is open to the public. Then in the afternoon have a working session not open to the public.</p> <p>Representative Edwards wants people to be able to share their stories. It puts a face on the real life.</p> <p>Representative Chavez-Houck thinks we could have someone documenting key phrases and do a work cloud. Would Commissioners Leonardi and Wallace think about how to get the private sector involved? Tentatively settled on October 22nd as the date.</p> <p>Commissioner Robinson wants to host it, she will check with availability.</p> <p>Commissioner Wallace thinks we need rural representation or viewpoint.</p>	<p>Representative Chavez-Houck would like to see this conference information added to our website.</p> <p>Commissioner Robinson will check on availability for October 22nd.</p> <p>Representative Edwards wants everyone to brainstorm people we need to include on a guest list.</p>

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<p>Sub- Committee Updates</p> <p>Research Sub- Committee</p> <p>Public Policy Sub-Committee</p>	<p>We now have a quorum to approve minutes. Representative Chavez-Houck asked for some changes to be made.</p> <p>Commissioner Robinson has no new updates.</p> <p>Representative Chavez-Houck has a follow-up from last meeting. Would still like to touch base with the legislators who ran bills last year, are they going to rerun them and do they want to work with us?</p> <p>Commissioner Wallace said that the Salt Lake Chamber is expanding and opening an additional Women’s Business Center Office in Cedar City. They were one of 7 in the whole nation that received a grant for this. She will be meeting tomorrow with the YWCA and Susan Madsen.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned.</p>	<p>Commissioner Robinson knows some good contacts for rural representation and will get Representative Edwards some names.</p> <p>Motion to approve minutes with new changes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Representative Chavez-Houck would like to assign this committee to work on the roundtable. Commissioner Bounous suggests we start getting sponsors to fund it. Our budget for the whole year is \$7000. Commissioner Robinson is hosting a similar event and will get budget ideas from that.</p> <p>Representative Chavez-Houck will convene this in a meeting after Labor Day and report in our October meeting.</p> <p>Commissioner Wallace with share the outcome of her meeting regarding women’s entrepreneurship in our October meeting.</p> <p>Motion to adjourn meeting.</p>